

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 4, 2005

**For More Information Contact**

Kelly Lobanov (804) 864-7553

## **VIRGINIA'S TOP WATER SYSTEMS HONORED FOR PROTECTING DRINKING WATER**

(RICHMOND, Va.)—As part of National Drinking Water Week (May 1-7) the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is recognizing Virginia water supply systems statewide that have surpassed state and federal regulations for the protection of community drinking water.

The VDH Office of Drinking Water's Waterworks Recognition Program rewards water systems that have demonstrated excellence in performance and operations and for the treatment and distribution of drinking water to the public. VDH will announce winners of the 2004 Virginia's Excellence in Waterworks Performance Award and 2004 Virginia's Excellence in Waterworks Operations Award at 9 a.m. May 5 at the Hotel Roanoke.

"Many people don't realize the importance of safe drinking water," said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H. "Water systems that take extra efforts to protect our citizens are to be commended."

To ensure that all Virginians have access to an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water that meets federal and state standards, VDH regulates approximately 1,310 community waterworks which serve about 6 million Virginians. The health department also monitors more than 1,650 non-community waterworks that serve facilities such as schools, factories and restaurants.

Excellent performance and operation involve setting and achieving goals well beyond the established regulations and making a commitment to customer satisfaction. Today, standards exist for 100 different drinking water contaminants, and the list will continue to grow as technology and customer demands increase.

"Ensuring safe drinking water is a complex endeavor that requires the dedication and technical expertise of a team of water treatment and distribution professionals. It is gratifying to have such professionals demonstrate a strong willingness to protect the public's health," said Office of Drinking Water Director Gerald W. Peaks, P.E.

The 2004 Virginia's Excellence in Waterworks Performance Award will be presented to the following water treatment plants:

- Town of Fries
- Town of Bluefield

(more)

Virginia's Top Water Systems Honored

- Town of Richlands
- Washington County Service Authority - Middle Fork Holston River
- Virginia Department of Corrections at the Appalachian Mens Detention Center at Blackford
- Virginia Department of Corrections Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women
- Louisa County Water Authority – Northeast Creek
- Western Virginia Water Authority – Spring Hollow
- Western Virginia Water Authority – Carvins Cove
- Food Processors Water Cooperative, Inc.
- City of Staunton
- Hanover Suburban Water Systems – Doswell
- Town of Farmville
- Town of Leesburg – Kenneth Rollins Memorial

The 2004 Virginia's Excellence in Waterworks Operations Award will be presented to the following waterworks:

- Food Processors Water Cooperative, Inc.
- Trails End Utility Company, Inc.
- Gwaltney of Smithfield, Ltd.
- Windtree Waterworks
- Fort A. P. Hill Headquarters
- Waterloo Property Owners Association
- Rye Valley Water Authority
- Town of Round Hill
- Town of Purcellville
- Greensville County Water & Sewer Authority – Jarrett
- Washington County Service Authority
- Albemarle County Service Authority Urban Area
- James City Service Authority
- Newport News Waterworks

###